

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

10/021,813

Examiner

Michael C. Miggins

Applicant(s)

COHEN, WAYNE

Art Unit

1772

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 11/6/03.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☐ The drawings filed on \_\_\_\_\_ are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some\* c) ☐ None of the:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.
5. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application) since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.
- (a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
6. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121 since a specific reference was included in the first sentence of the specification or in an Application Data Sheet. 37 CFR 1.78.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

7. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
8. ☒ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
- (a) ☒ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
- 1) ☒ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.
- (b) ☐ including changes required by the proposed drawing correction filed \_\_\_\_\_, which has been approved by the Examiner.
- (c) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the margin according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).

9. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1 ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2 ☒ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3 ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No. \_\_\_\_\_
- 4 ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5 ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6 ☒ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No. 6
- 7 ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8 ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9 ☐ Other

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**EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Gary Abelev on 11/25/03.

The application has been amended as follows:

**In the claims:**

In claim 1, line 2, after "... plastic parts, ..." the term "... including ..." has been deleted and the term "- - comprising: ..." has been inserted in place thereof.

In claim 1, at the end of line 12, after "... mating edges respectively ..." the phrase } - , wherein at least a portion of the intermediate part including the decorative shape is coextensive with the first edge mating structure, and wherein at least a portion of the intermediate part including the decorative shape is coextensive with the second edge mating structure -[" has been inserted.}]

***Reasons for Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

With regards to claim 1, the reason for allowance is applicant's recited hollow shell article formed of three joined molded plastic parts comprising a first end part having a first partial shell surface, said first end part having a first mating edge structure, a second end part having a second partial shell surface, said second end part having a

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second mating edge structure, a third intermediate part wherein said third intermediate part includes a selected decorative shape, which extends for a predetermined width and extending for a predetermined distance between the first and second mating edge structures, wherein at least a portion of the intermediate part including the decorative shape is coextensive with the first edge mating structure, and wherein at least a portion of the intermediate part including the decorative shape is coextensive with the second edge mating structure. The prior art does not teach applicant's recited hollow shell article.

The closest prior art, Hunt, teaches a hollow shell article formed of three joined molded plastic parts comprising a first end part having a first partial shell surface, said first end part having a first mating edge structure, a second end part having a second partial shell surface, said second end part having a second mating edge structure, and a third intermediate part. However, Hunt does not disclose that said third intermediate part includes a selected decorative shape, which extends for a predetermined width and extending for a predetermined distance between the first and second mating edge structures, wherein at least a portion of the intermediate part including the decorative shape is coextensive with the first edge mating structure, and wherein at least a portion of the intermediate part including the decorative shape is coextensive with the second edge mating structure. Applicant's recited hollow shell article is not obvious over Hunt since one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to provide the missing limitations to arrive at applicant's claimed invention.

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With regards to claim 9, the reason for allowance is applicant's recited hollow shell article having an exterior surface comprising a first end part having a first partial shell surface and a tubular extension, a second end part having a second partial shell surface, a third intermediate part including an exterior surface which has a selected decorative shape and an internal passage, wherein a cross-section of said tubular extension is smaller than the cross-section of said decorative shape, wherein said first and second end parts being configured for forming with said first and second end parts a combined structure having a decorative shape. The prior art does not teach applicant's recited hollow shell article.

The closest prior art, Ballu, discloses a hollow shell article having an exterior surface comprising a first end part having a first partial shell surface and a tubular extension, a second end part having a second partial shell surface, a third intermediate part including an exterior surface. However, Ballu fails to disclose that the exterior surface of the third intermediate part has a selected decorative shape, wherein a cross-section of said tubular extension is smaller than the cross-section of said decorative shape, wherein said first and second end parts being configured for forming with said first and second end parts a combined structure having a decorative shape.

Furthermore, applicant's hollow shell article is not obvious over Ballu since one of ordinary skill in the art would not have been motivated to provide the exterior surface of the third intermediate part has a selected decorative shape and an internal passage, wherein a cross-section of said tubular extension is smaller than the cross-section of said decorative shape wherein said first and second end parts being configured

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for forming with said first and second end parts a combined structure having a decorative shape to arrive at applicant's claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

### **Conclusion**

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Michael C. Miggins whose telephone number is (703) 305-0915. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Friday; 1:30-10:00 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Pyon Harold can be reached on (703) 308-4251. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9310.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0661.

MCM *hcl*  
November 25, 2003

*Harold Pyon*  
HAROLD PYON  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
*1772*

*11/26/03*

*B*